

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN AUGUST 2010

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of lead in August was 26,600 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in August was 859 t, down by 10% from that in July 2010. Year-to-date mine production through August 2010 was about 9% less than that of the same period of 2009. Secondary refinery production of lead increased by 4% compared with that of the previous month. Secondary refinery production through August 2010 was slightly less than that in the corresponding period of 2009.

Total imports of lead for consumption for the year to date through July 2010 were about 12% higher than those in the same period of 2009. Canada (86%) and Mexico (11%) were the principal sources of imported refined lead for the year through July 2010. Total exports of lead, exclusive of scrap, in July 2010 were 77% lower than those through the same period of 2009. Exports of lead scrap in July 2010 decreased by 9% from those in the previous month. Lead scrap exports through the first 6 months of 2010 were 60% less than those during the same period of 2009.

The average Platts Metals Week North American producer price for lead in August 2010 was \$0.96 per pound, up slightly from that of the previous month and slightly higher than that in August 2009. The London Metal Exchange (LME) cash price of lead in August 2010 averaged \$2,075 per metric ton, up by 13% from that of the previous month and 9% higher than that in August 2009. Global LME lead stocks at the end of August 2010 were 191,100 t, 4% greater than those at the end of July 2010 and 58% greater than those at month-end August 2009.

An air permit that was issued in February 2010 to Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI) (Milwaukee, WI) by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for a planned secondary lead smelter in Florence, SC, became effective in August following a brief delay. The permit had been appealed by local groups owing to potential environmental concerns associated with the new facility, but JCI was able to work with the groups and addressed their issues. The new \$115 million secondary smelter was expected to produce as much as 120,000 metric tons per year of refined lead from used lead-acid batteries when it opens in summer 2012 (CRU Lead Monitor, 2010).

In late August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denied a petition calling for a ban on the production and distribution of lead hunting ammunition. The EPA reached this decision because it does not have the legal authority to regulate this type of product (ammunition or firearms) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The petition, submitted in early August by several groups, had asked the EPA to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution of lead shot, bullets, and fishing sinkers under the TSCA. The EPA planned to continue to formally review the part of the petition related to lead fishing sinkers (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2010).

## References Cited

CRU Lead Monitor, 2010, Smelter news: CRU Lead Monitor, August, p. 8.  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2010, EPA denies petition calling for lead ammunition ban: Washington, DC, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency news release, August 27, 2 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January-August	July	August	January-August
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	395,000	265,000	29,500 <sup>†</sup>	26,600	241,000
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	749,000	92,000	95,700	731,000
Estimated	11,200	7,490	920	953	8,170
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup>	15,000	10,000	1,250	1,250	10,000
Total secondary	1,150,000	767,000	94,200	98,000	749,000
Consumption:					
Reported	1,380,000	919,000	112,000	113,000	906,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	41,500	27,600	3,370	3,400	27,200
Total	1,430,000	946,000	116,000	117,000	933,000
Stocks, end of period, consumers and secondary smelters	61,700	70,200	57,600	59,200	59,200
Imports for consumption:					
Base bullion	844	690	--	NA	146 <sup>2</sup>
Refined metal	251,000	164,000	22,000	NA	165,000 <sup>2</sup>
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	287,000	181,000	43,600	NA	125,000 <sup>2</sup>
Bullion	34	25	(3)	NA	(3) <sup>2</sup>
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,000	60,800	6,680	NA	41,200 <sup>2</sup>
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,810	95	NA	537 <sup>2</sup>
Scrap (gross weight)	140,000	96,900	1,110	NA	33,900 <sup>2</sup>
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	86.87	75.21	95.11	95.79	106.11

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>†</sup>Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes data for January-July only; August 2010 data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>3</sup>Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 2  
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price	London Metal Exchange cash		Sterling exchange rate
	¢/lb	\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	\$/£
2009:				
August	94.50	1,899.26	1,147.34	1.655350
September	107.80	2,203.82	1,348.43	1.634360
October	110.79	2,240.00	1,389.69	1.611869
November	111.03	2,308.19	1,390.84	1.659562
December	111.11	2,327.76	1,431.91	1.625638
January-December	86.87	1,718.49	1,086.44	1.564528
2010:				
January	111.24	2,367.70	1,464.68	1.616535
February	110.35	2,122.45	1,358.72	1.562100
March	110.53	2,171.66	1,443.00	1.504961
April	110.88	2,264.48	1,526.82	1.483130
May	109.46	1,882.18	1,285.55	1.464105
June	105.49	1,703.39	1,154.71	1.475168
July	95.11	1,836.40	1,201.59	1.528305
August	95.79	2,074.77	1,324.67	1.566257
January-August	106.11	2,052.88	1,344.97	1.525070

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks July 31, 2010	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks August 31, 2010
Battery-lead	23,400	93,100	92,500	24,000
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	654	8,030	8,020	660
Total	24,000	101,000	100,000	24,700
Percent change from preceding month <sup>3</sup>	XX	+9.8	+0.4	+2.7

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap.

<sup>3</sup>Based on unrounded data; preceding monthly may have been revised.

TABLE 4  
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM  
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN AUGUST 2010<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	56,600	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	9,840	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	29,300	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	95,700	128	239

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other."

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>3</sup>Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2009		2010		
	January-December	January-August	July	August	January-August
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	70,500	49,100	6,490	6,580	50,100
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	3,920	2,640	233	233	1,910
Cable covering, power and communication and caulking lead, building construction	5,830	3,880	675	675	4,920
Casting metals	20,100	13,400	1,330	1,320	9,520
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	27,100	17,900	2,310	2,410	21,700
Solder	7,270	4,860	687	687	5,800
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,210,000	801,000	97,500	98,100	787,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	16,700	11,100	1,220	1,220	9,930
Total metal products	1,360,000	904,000	110,000	111,000	891,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	21,300	15,200	1,890	1,890	15,500
Total reported	1,380,000	919,000	112,000	113,000	906,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	41,500	27,600	3,370	3,400	27,200
Grand total	1,430,000	946,000	116,000	117,000	933,000

<sup>c</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

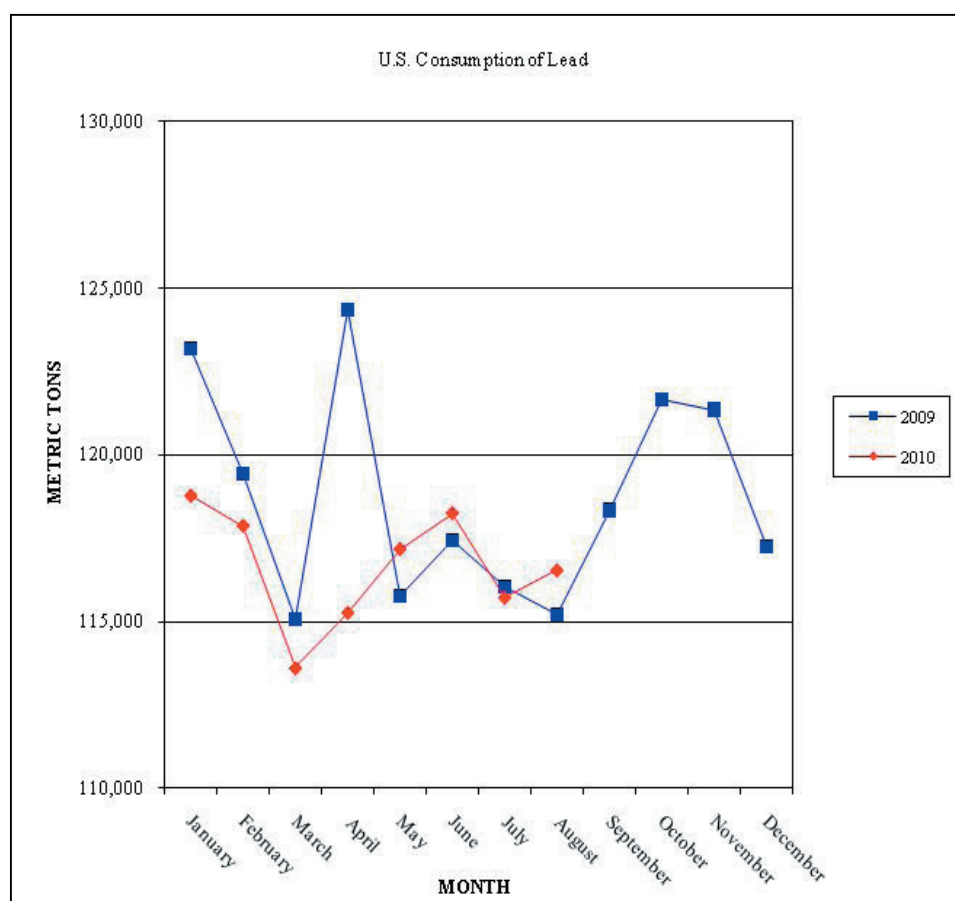


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS, AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks July 31, 2010	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks August 31, 2010
Soft lead	32,300	75,300	73,400	34,200
Antimonial lead	16,100	21,200	21,500	15,800
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	57,600	115,000	113,000	59,200

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

	2009		2010		
	Year	January- July	June	July	January- July
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	287,000	153,000	13,900	43,600	125,000
Bullion	34	25	--	(2)	(2)
Materials excluding scrap	82,000	53,600	4,730	6,680	41,200
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	2,070	1,730	30	95	537
Total	371,000	208,000	18,700	50,400	167,000
Gross weight, scrap	140,000	84,300	4,750	1,110	33,900
Spent lead-acid batteries, used for starting engines (units)	7,300,000	1,390,000	1,180,000	1,090,000	7,970,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY  
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN <sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	2009		2010		
	Year	January- July	June	July	January- July
Ore, matte, etc., Cana	1,490	1,290	--	--	--
Base bullion:					
Mexico	810	643	--	--	108
Other	34	34	--	--	38
Total	844	677	--	--	146
Pigs and bars:					
Canada	205,000	114,000	23,400	18,600	142,000
Mexico	41,100	27,500	3,140	3,320	18,900
Peru	991	991	--	--	--
Other	4,020	3,540	158	76	3,760
Total	251,000	146,000	26,700	22,000	165,000
Grand total	253,000	148,000	26,700	22,000	165,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.